

# County records flood Web

## PC access expected to reduce traffic to downtown office

**By Chris Fiscus**

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Finding out the price of that ritzy home in your neighborhood soon will be just a few computer clicks away.

Starting July 1, the Maricopa County Recorder's Office will be on the Internet with a sea of records from property purchases to federal tax liens.

Records filed with the office after September 1991, including wills, notices of trustee's sales and military discharges, will be available by computer.

The public can access the county's Web site, click the county records icon and then select "recorder." The address is: [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov).

Bad movie night on cable?

Go hunting through public documents instead, and find out that Jerry

Colangelo and his wife bought a \$336,000 home — apparently in a cash sale.

"You could just sit at home and search everybody," joked Jan Brewer, a Maricopa County supervisor who watched a demonstration of the system Tuesday.

The point, though, is to allow people and businesses access to the public records without making them come downtown during business hours.

County Recorder Helen Purcell expects fewer people to come to her office in person.

"Most of the time it's standing room only," Purcell said. "It'll make it much more convenient."

Lil Stephens-Murray, president of Arizona Lien Services, agrees. She is a

regular customer at the recorder's office, but her offices are in Tempe and Tucson.

"It took me almost 40 minutes to get down here today from Tempe," she said. "Now I can do it from the office. I can do it from Tucson. I can do 10 to 12 projects in an hour (online)."

The only drawback is that items can be viewed on the Internet, but if documents would be printed they would be unofficial. Official versions cost \$1.

Purcell's office has been planning the system since 1988.

The project to put the documents online cost about \$8 million, she said, funded from more than \$12 million raised since 1986 to fund automation. The money comes from a user's fee, not from the county's general fund.